

# Marshland Rural District Council

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1971

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. McD. HANLEY

M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

AND THE

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. L. WESLEY

F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

District Council Offices  
Alexandra Road,  
Wisbech.



MARSHLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman (Councillor S. Booley), the Vice Chairman (Councillor C.L. Burman) and the full Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. McD. Hanley, M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Local Health Office,

Area No. 4,

No.15, Nelson Street,

KING'S LYNN,

Norfolk.

Telephone Number: King's Lynn 3643

Also holds appointments of -

County Departmental Medical Officer

School Medical Officer,

Medical Officer of Health, Downham Market Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health, Downham Rural District Council

Medical Officer of Health, King's Lynn Borough Council

Medical Officer of Health, Freebridge Lynn Rural District Council

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

A. L. Wesley, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND ASSISTANT SURVEYOR

V. J. George, M.A.P.H.I., (from the 25th January, 1971)

TEMPORARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

J. W. Taylor (from the 1st October, 1971)

CLERK

Miss L.M. Griffiths





MARSHLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Council,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1971.

Vital Statistics

These show a small reduction in the population of our area. The infant mortality rates are satisfactory. As one might expect the pattern of mortality remains much the same. Cancer of the lung, ischaemic heart disease and cerebral vascular disease, remain the main cause of death.

Once again we maintain our freedom from maternal deaths.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Fewer immunisations have been done because of a change in the interval between injections and a new spacing of booster injections. The position is reasonably satisfactory.


Measles and rubella vaccination continue to be administered in fair number and in the case of measles the effect of this has begun to show in the greatly reduced number of notifications of the disease. I have no doubt in the next few years a similar reduction in the incidence of rubella in mothers will be seen.

Health Education

Our services in this field are continuing and we are maintaining county services in Health Education in schools and clinics.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

*J. M. S. Hance*  
Medical Officer of Health.



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# SECTION A

## Summary of Vital Statistics

Area in acres . . . . .	56,562
Population in 1931 . . . . .	15,350
Population in 1951 (Census) . . . . .	16,567
Population in 1971, estimated mid-year home population . . . . .	17,380
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1971 . . . . .	6,789
Rateable value 1971 . . . . .	£415,199
Product of penny rate 1971 . . . . .	£3,966

### LIVE BIRTHS . . . . . 286

Rate per 1,000 population . . . . .	16.8
Ditto for England and Wales . . . . .	16.0
Illegitimate Live Births percent of total Live Births . . . . .	5

### DEATHS (All Causes) . . . . . 165

Rate per 1,000 population . . . . .	10.6
Ditto for England and Wales . . . . .	11.6

### STILL BIRTHS . . . . . 2

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births . . . . .	7
Ditto for England and Wales . . . . .	12

### TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS . . . . . 288

### INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under One Year) . . . . . 5

#### INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total Live Births . . . . .	17
Ditto for England and Wales . . . . .	18
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Births . . . . .	18
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births . . . . .	-

#### (EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE)

(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Live Births) . . . . .	7
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#### NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total Live Births) . . . . .	14
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#### PERI-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births)	14
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#### MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including Abortion)

Number of Deaths . . . . .	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births . . . . .	Nil





## SECTION B

### 1. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES

#### (a) District Nursing Sisters, District Midwives and Health Visitors

Attachment to General Practitioners is now fully implemented and information regarding these services may be obtained from the Area Nursing Officer, Local Health Office, No.15, Nelson Street, KING'S LYNN. (Telephone Number: King's Lynn 3643).

#### (b) Ambulance and Hospital Car Services

All Ambulances are now under overall supervision by the Ambulance Control Centre, County Hall, NORWICH.

All Ambulance calls for West Norfolk are dealt with by the Ambulance Sub-Control Centre, Wellesley Street, KING'S LYNN. Telephone King's Lynn 4686 and Emergency King's Lynn 4298/9.

Infectious Diseases cases are conveyed by King's Lynn or Norwich Infectious Disease Ambulances.

The Hospital Car Service is administered from the Ambulance Sub-Control Centre, Wellesley Street, KING'S LYNN. (Telephone: King's Lynn 3503 and 3910).

#### (c) Child Health Clinics

(i)	Walpole St. Peter	2nd Tuesdays	2 - 4 p.m.
(ii)	West Walton	2nd Wednesdays	2 - 4 p.m.
(iii)	Terrington St. Clement	3rd Tuesdays	2 - 4 p.m.
(iv)	Clenchwarton	Last Mondays	2 - 4 p.m.
(v)	Emneth	Last Tuesdays	2 - 4 p.m.
(vi)	Tilney St. Lawrence	Last Thursdays	2 - 4 p.m.

A Medical Officer is in attendance at the above Sessions.

In addition, a Child Health Clinic is held monthly at the Methodist Hall, Outwell, on the 3rd Monday, starting at 2 p.m.

#### (d) Vaccination and Immunisation

Shown overleaf are figures for immunisations carried out by general practitioners and medical staff in my Local Health Area during 1971. This area also embraces Downham Urban and Downham Rural District.





Smallpox Vaccination

Primary Vaccination	Total	Revaccination	Total
Under 5    5 - 15 123            20	143	Under 5    5 - 15 3            20	23

Tetanus

Primary Courses	Total	Reinforcing Doses	Total
Under 8    8 - 15 358            43	401	Under 8    8 - 15 479            442	921

Whooping Cough

Primary Courses	Total	Reinforcing Doses	Total
Under 8    8 - 15 291            Nil	291	Under 8    8 - 15 82            2	84

Diphtheria

Primary Courses	Total	Reinforcing Doses	Total
Under 8    8 - 15 358            32	390	Under 8    8 - 15 474            143	617





Poliomyelitis

Primary Courses	Total	Reinforcing Doses	Total
Under 8    8 - 15 365        34	399	Under 8    8 - 15 464        401	865

B.C.G. Vaccination

Number given the preliminary skin test	Number Vaccinated	Number referred for Chest X-ray
380	340	-

Measles Vaccination

Rubella Vaccination

Under 8    8 - 15	Total	Females 13 - 14
475        77	552	179

2. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Norfolk Executive Council, Horse Fair House,  
17, St. Faith's Lane, Norwich.

Clerk - F.H. Adams, Esq.

3. VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

Males

Tuesdays - 5.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.  
Fridays - 4.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Females and Children

Tuesdays - 3.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.  
Fridays - 3.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.





4. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Treatment of premises and articles is carried out by the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

5. LABORATORY SERVICES

- (a) Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, NORWICH.  
Under the direction of Dr. I.M. Dowsett.
- (b) Public Analyst,  
Dr. Eric Wood, Phd., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.
- (c) Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, CAMBRIDGE.



STATISTICAL TABLES, 1971

Table No. 1

CAUSES OF DEATH								M	F	Total
B19 (1)	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal cavity etc.	..						2	1	3
B19 (2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	..	..					1	-	1
B19 (3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..				4	-	4
B19 (4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	..	..	..				4	7	11
B19 (6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	..	..					11	1	12
B19 (7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	..	..	..				-	1	1
B19 (8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	..	..	..				-	3	3
B19 (9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	..	..	..				1	-	1
B19(10)	Leukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	3	3
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	..	..	..				3	9	12
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	..	..	..	..	..		1	1	2
B46 (1)	Other Endocrine Etc., Diseases	..	..					1	-	1
B46 (5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	..	..					-	1	1
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	..	..					-	2	2
B27	Hypertensive Disease	..	..	..	..			-	2	2
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	..	..	..	..			25	6	31
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	..	..	..				6	2	8
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	..	..	..	..			12	12	24
B46 (6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	..						3	3	6
B32	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	10
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	..	..	..	..			3	1	4
B33 (2)	Asthma	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	-	3
B46 (7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..						1	-	1
B34	Peptic Ulcer	..	..	..	..	..		1	1	2
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	..	..					2	1	3
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	..	..			1	-	1
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	..	..	..	..			1	-	1
B46(11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	..						-	1	1





Table 1 continued

B42	Congenital Anomalies .. ..	1	1	2
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult labour, etc. ..	-	1	1
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions ..	1	-	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents .. ..	3	-	3
BE48	All other accidents .. ..	-	2	2
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ..	2	-	2
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		98	67	165





NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1971

	<u>Notifications</u>		
	M	F	Total
Measles (excluding rubella) .....	32	27	59
Dysentery .....	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever .....	4	3	7
Diphtheria .....	-	-	-
Acute Meningitis .....	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic .....	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis - Non-Paralytic .....	-	-	-
Smallpox .....	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	-	-	-
Anthrax .....	-	-	-
Yellow Fever .....	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis - Infective .....	-	-	-
Post Infective .....	-	-	-
Leptospirosis .....	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever .....	-	-	-
Food Poisoning .....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough .....	1	-	1
Tetanus .....	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice .....	1	-	1
Total of all Cases	38	30	68



Table No. 3

NEW CASES AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS1971

Age of Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
-45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
-55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1971.

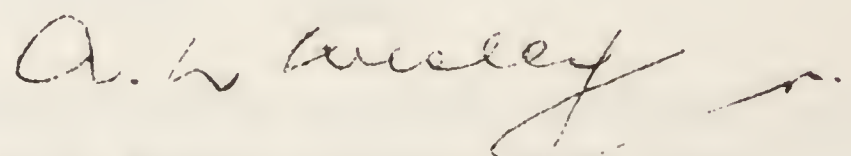
The cesspool emptying service was again fully stretched to meet the increasing demand and to cope with extra mileage caused by concentrating disposal of cesspool contents mainly at the Borough Sewage Farm, Walpole Marsh.

I am very pleased to be able to report that the Clenchwarton and Terrington St. Clement Sewerage Scheme became operative in October, 1971. A successful meeting was held with local builders to discuss the Council's requirement for connections and an explanatory letter with application form and specification was delivered to all premises along the route of the sewer.

The Public Health Committee agreed to the appointment of a Temporary Technical Assistant and Mr. J.W. Taylor took up duties in October, 1971. As soon as the sewer was available for use, there was an excellent response from householders and by 31st December, 140 private properties had been connected. By this time also, some of the worst polluted dykes in Clenchwarton were showing improvement and it is anticipated that this will be a continuous process.

During the year, the Wisbech Borough Council received planning permission for the construction of new outfall works at River Road, West Walton, thus enabling Phase I of the Council's Regional Sewerage Scheme (covering parts of the Parishes of Tilney St. Lawrence, Terrington St. John, Walpole St. Peter, West Walton, Walsoken and Emneth) to proceed up to tender stage.

Mr. M. Whitehead left to take up a similar appointment with Depwade Rural District Council and Mr. V.J. George, previously employed by the Borough of King's Lynn, joined the department on the 25th January, 1971. My thanks are due to Miss Griffiths, Mr. George and Mr. Taylor for their loyal service.



Senior Public Health Inspector  
and Surveyor.





## WATER SUPPLY

This service is provided by the Wisbech and District Water Board.

The following information has kindly been supplied by Mr. J.S. Collins, Chemist and Bacteriologist, Wisbech and District Water Board:-

Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1971 on samples from the Board's Marham Works, Beechamwell Pumping Station and Margaretta Bridge Pumping Station and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

The fluoride content of a sample of water from the Water Board Offices, Oldfield Lane, Wisbech (mixture of water from Marham and Beechamwell) taken on the 29th November, 1971, was NIL.

Margaretta Bridge Pumping Station was closed down on 7th July, 1971.

## SUMMARY OF EXAMINATIONS AND ANALYSES

	<u>Bacteriological Examinations</u>			<u>Chemical Analysis</u>
	<u>No. of Tests Taken</u>	<u>No. of Tests Negative</u>	<u>No. of Tests Positive</u>	
Board's Works Raw Water	523	468	55	
Board's Works Treated Waters	481	481	-	
Margaretta Bridge Pumping Station	76	76	-	
Consumers' Taps	59	59	-	118
Totals	1139	1084	55	
Total of all examinations and analyses			<u>1257</u>	

Out of the total of Board's treated water samples, samples taken at Margaretta Bridge Pumping Station and samples taken from consumers' taps, 100% were negative on examination for organisms of the coliform group. This represents a continued very high standard of bacterial purity.





## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Cesspools, privy vaults and septic tanks, with sewage disposal plants on the larger Council Housing Sites, are the main methods of disposal.

The cesspool emptying service was operated by four vehicles, three 1,500 and one 1,100 gallon capacity which were fully employed in coping with the demand from both Council and private properties. Regular de-sludging of the Council's sewage plants serving Council Housing Sites was also carried out.

During the year, disposal was again restricted to the Borough Sewage Farm at Walpole Marsh with a few other outlets and this meant that longer hauls had to be made especially from the South of the District. However, good weather conditions helped and a reasonable service was maintained.

The following work was carried out during the year:-

	Number of Cesspools, etc.
Private and Commercial	3,989
Council Houses	1,053
Regular Emptyings from Council Houses	400
Housing Sewage Plants	517

## RIVER POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTS

The district continues to be controlled by the two main Internal Drainage Boards of the Marshland Fen and West of Ouse together with the Middle Level Commissioners with outfalls controlled by the River Boards of the Nene and Ouse.

## FRUIT PICKERS' QUARTERS SEASONAL WORKERS - CARAVANS

The problem of housing and siting caravans for seasonal workers still exists. Periodical visits to sites were continued and except for a few





isolated cases a reasonable state of cleanliness and order was maintained. During the year, four sites catering for students were in use.

#### CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

During August a survey of the Anglers' Holiday Camps at Outwell and Upwell was made and a report made to the Norfolk County Council.

There are eighteen licensed individual caravans in the district, but no residential site in excess of one now exists.

#### INFESTATION BY PESTS

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| (a) Bed Bugs    | No reports of infestation were received.   |
| (b) Fleas       | No cases were reported or found.   |
| (c) Flies       | No major problems arose. The joint refuse tip was treated by the Department and individual cases were dealt with by modern insecticides. |
| (d) Cockroaches | No cases of infestation were reported.   |

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACTS

A rodent operator is not employed by the Council, There were no heavy infestations reported. The department maintained a constant watch over the refuse tip and baiting continued regularly. Advice was given to several persons reporting infestations and in many cases help was given by the Department in controlling infestation on premises.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council continued a weekly kerbside collection in the district with free collection of bulky refuse on request, and full use of the service was made by householders.

Use of the former Wisbech Canal was continued and by December a length of approximately 10,905 feet had been filled. This tip is receiving the refuse from the Borough of Wisbech and Marshland and Wisbech Rural District Councils. Measures were taken against fly and rodent infestation and injurious weeds were cut down on the filled section. Trade refuse was accepted under the control of the Surveyors.

During the year, arrangements were continued for the short-term letting of approximately eleven acres of the filled portion of the former Wisbech Canal to the adjoining owners. The major part of this was cultivated and produced crops thus relieving the Joint Refuse Committee of dealing with injurious weeds, etc.







## WORK STUDY

The Norfolk County Council, Work Study Department prepared a scheme for the Refuse Collection Staff but it was agreed that the work study would not be implemented until all services had been dealt with.

## FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Regular visits were made to all types of food premises during the year.

Number of Premises to which Food Hygiene Regulations apply.	103
Number of Premises fitted with Wash Hand Basins.	103
Number of Premises to comply with Regulation 19 of the Food Hygiene Regulations.	99
Number of Premises complying with Regulation 19.	99
Number of Premises registered to sell Ice-Cream.	49

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the district.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES - Meat Inspection

No slaughterhouses were in operation during the year and no progress was made on the premises under construction at Walpole St. Peter.

## POULTRY INSPECTION

Two poultry processing premises have been in use. Both have a small throughput, in one case, poultry and other ducklings, and inspections were made.





## FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

There are now two large wholesale food storage warehouses and a fruit and vegetable packing factory operating in the district. These are receiving imported containerised goods which has resulted in some large condemnations listed below:-

Canned Fruit	-	2,251 lbs.
Canned Tomatoes	-	34 lbs.
Apples	-	12,089 lbs.
Beans	-	2,430 lbs.
Tomatoes	-	500 lbs.
Frozen Vegetables	-	9 lbs.
Frozen Fish	-	30 lbs.
Ice-Cream	-	100 lbs.
Bacon	-	10 lbs.

## MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk samples were taken by the staff of the County Council.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is one licensed knacker's yard in the area at Terrington St. John and conditions continued satisfactorily.

## HOUSING

Some progress was made on the Slum Clearance programme and appreciation should be recorded of the Council's help in this respect. By arrangement with the Housing Officer, applicants rehoused from properties were notified to my department. Inspection of these houses was made and appropriate action taken either by closing or for repairs to be carried out. Development by Private Enterprise and Council went ahead and I give below the number of new dwellings completed.

Dwellings completed by the Council	-	32
Houses and Bungalows completed by Private Enterprise	-	111

478 plans were submitted to the department during the year for consideration under the Building Regulations, 1965, and the Planning Acts.





ACTION BY THE COUNCIL UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS DURING 1971

Parishes	Closing Orders made	Under/ takings accepted	Demolition Orders made	Demolition by Formal/ Informal Action	Closing Orders and Demolition Orders determined
Clonchwarton	-	-	-	4	-
Emneth	-	-	1	5	-
Marshland St. James	-	-	-	-	-
Outwell	1	-	-	-	1
Terrington St. Clement	-	-	-	-	-
Terrington St. John	-	-	-	-	-
Tilney All Saints	-	-	-	-	-
Tilney St. Lawrence	-	-	-	1	-
Upwell	1	-	-	9	-
Walpole St. Andrew	-	-	4	1	-
Walpole St. Peter	-	-	-	-	-
Walsoken	-	-	-	-	-
West Walton	-	-	-	3	-
TOTALS	2	-	5	23	1

HOUSING REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

It was found necessary to serve informal notices on owners of properties to carry out certain essential repairs and all these were carried out without the service of statutory notices.

Standard Grants - Applications approved - 45

Improvement Grants - Applications approved - 9

Improvements Grants are dealt with by the Council's Architect, in consultation with this department regarding slum clearance etc.





PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There is one licensed pet shop in the district.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

There is one licensed establishment in the district at which both cats and dogs are boarded.







